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PLAN

To carry the

ART OF SURGERY

To its HIGHEST PERFECTION in a SHORT TIME,

And to erect a ROYAL ACADEMY of SURGERY in LONDON without Expence to the Public.

By FR. COSTE, M.D.

Formerly Physician to His Majesty the King of PRUSSIA's Guards.

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INTRODUCTION.

EVERY Attempt calculated for the general good of Mankind, however ſlighted by us, is always moſt eaſy to be put in Execution. Although every rational Being is deſirous to maintain and extend his own Exiſtence by any means whatever; yet it very often happens, that the lighteſt Incidents put an end to the moſt valuable Life, becauſe thoſe incidents have not been opportunely redreſſed by the aſſiſtance which good Surgery might have afforded. Inſtances of this are innumerable, therefore unneceſſary to be produced.

It is well known that the Art of Surgery is ſo neceſſary for the preſervation of Mankind, that even at the firſt inſtant of our Birth we muſt die had we not recourſe to it: Through the whole courſe of Life we are liable to many Diſtempers and Accidents, which Surgery alone is able to remove and cure; Accidents which would put a ſtop to our Being, if we were deprived of the aſſiſtance of this uſeful Art.

It

It muſt be acknowledged that moſt of the learned Sciences, either have had their Origin or have been carried to great Perfection in *England* ever ſince the eſtabliſhment of the Royal Society; but it is evident that the Art of Surgery is not here arrived to ſo great a degree of Perfection as in a neighbouring Nation.

The Cauſe of the little Progreſs that Surgery has made in *England* is, that the Knowledge acquired in the Hoſpitals, is attended with great Expence; the Learner has too little Time for gaining a ſufficient Knowledge of the Art.

None but thoſe that pay are admitted to ſee the Surgeons perform their Operations. Venality is always a barbarous Obſtacle to Science.

To remedy this Inconvenience and promote the Perfection of Surgery in this Nation, it would be neceſſary that a great many young People be taught the Knowledge and Practice of the three chief Parts of Surgery *gratis*, *viz.* Firſt, All the Operations practicable on the Human Body. Secondly, The curing Venereal Diſeaſes. Thirdly, Midwifery. By following this Advice we ſhould have a ſufficient Number of able Surgeons, and the Perfection of this Art ſpread through all Parts of this Kingdom,

dom, the Colonies, Army, and Navy; which would be the ſureſt and ſhorteſt way to preſerve the Life of many Thouſands of good People uſeful to their Country.

The Nobility and Gentry are moſt nearly concerned herein, for as they enjoy the firſt Employments in the Army, the Navy, and Colonies, they have Opportunities of knowing how greatly their Preſervation depends on their having with them a ſufficient Number of able Surgeons in a Battle, in a Sea-fight, and eſpecially in the dreadful Calamities that attend long Voyages. To obtain the end here aimed at, let us conſider the following Propoſals.

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PLAN &c.

I.

TO have an exceeding large Hoſpital wherein may be admitted, without any Protection or Recommendation, at any time of the Day or Night, all ſorts of diſtempered People of both Sexes.

II.

The number of Beds to be diſtributed in ſuch a manner that the greateſt Part of them may be for the Wounded, the diſtempered with Venereal Diſorders, and the pregnant Women; and the remainder for all ſick Perſons whatſoever, becauſe many Accidents which belong to Surgery proceed from them, ſuch are Abſceſs, Ulcers, Carrioufneſs

riouſneſs of the Bones, Empiems, &c. Moreover the Surgeons here mentioned, being deſigned for the Colonies, the Navy, the Army, and the different Counties of the Kingdom, muſt learn how to cure Fevers, Looſneſſes, Pleuriſies, and Scurvey; conſequently all ſorts of ſick People muſt be admitted into this Hoſpital, ſo that the young Surgeons may have the Opportunity of ſeeing how the Phyſicians treat thoſe Diſtempers, after they have acquired, by their Study from the beſt Books on that Subject, the Theory of thoſe Diſtempers.

III.

In this Hoſpital muſt be ſeveral learned experienced Phyſicians, and four chief Surgeons of well known Capacity and Integrity, becauſe all the Succeſs of this undertaking will depend on them, according as they are more or leſs able to inſtruct their Pupils, theſe might have a ſufficient Salary granted them, like that at *Greenwich* Hoſpital, and not be permitted to receive any Fee from their Pupils.

IV.

An hundred young Men, thoroughly verſed in Anatomical Knowledge, and acquainted with the practice of Bandages, and the Apparatus neceſſary to the Operations of Surgery, ſhould be choſen; theſe young People, without paying any Thing, ſhould be bound for ſix Years to help the Sick, dreſs Wounds, and other Operations, under the inſpection of the chief Surgeons; thoſe among them that have ſtudied the *Latin* Tongue ſhould be preferred to the others, as being more fit to acquire Knowledge; and if it ſhould be thought proper to accept none but ſuch as are acquainted with the *Latin* Tongue, I doubt not but that there might be a ſufficient Number of them found in the Colleges. And to encourage thoſe young People to apply to their Art in the Hoſpital the more diligently, the Government might promiſe them, that after their having been there ſix Years, they ſhould be intitled to the ſame Privileges as thoſe who ſerve an Apprenticeſhip in the City of *London*, and that if they were inclined to be employed in a Regiment, in a King's Ship, or a Colony, they ſhould be preferred to any others, or in caſe they chooſe to ſettle in the

Place

Place where they were born, they ſhould be intitled to be Surgeons of the Town, *&c.* without expence and free from all Taxes during Life.

V.

Theſe young People, under the Penalty of being turned out, ſhould never fail to be in the Hoſpital to dreſs the Wounded, when the Chiefs are viſiting them; three or four of theſe young Surgeons at once ſhould be obliged to watch by Night in the Hoſpital, to help the Sick in caſe of need.

VI.

Thoſe young Perſons ſhould be inſtructed by their Chiefs in Chirurgical Operations, in curing Venereal Diſorders and in Midwifery; the Practice of which ſhall be taught them after the ſecond Year of their Time according to the Capacity that ſhall be found in them.

VII.

To lead them to that Practice, the chief Surgeons ſhall provide themſelves every Winter with dead Bodies to teach the manual Operations to the young Surgeons of the Hoſpital, and to thoſe who have in-

liſted themſelves in the Hoſpital to go through the ſame Courſe.

VIII.

Any young Man, who knows Anatomy perfectly well and deſires to be admitted as a Pupil in the ſaid Hoſpital, ſhall only need to have his Name entered in the chief Surgeon's Book; they ſhall be received by Turns, without Preference, whenever there is a Vacancy; and till that Time they muſt be obliged to come every Morning to the Hoſpital to ſee what the Surgeons are doing and aſſiſt them.

IX.

Theſe young Surgeons ſhall write Chirurgical Obſervations upon any Wound or Operation committed to their Care; ſhall account for the Accidents, Symptoms and Expedients or Means which their Chiefs have made Uſe of to obtain a perfect Cure. Theſe Obſervations ſhould be read at the End of every Month, and a Choice be made of the moſt deſerving of them to be printed. This would be a ſure Way to make theſe young Practitioners curious in their Obſervations and capable of diſcerning the Diagnoſtics and Prognoſtics of Diſtempers, and to write perfectly upon Surgery.

X. Thoſe

X.

Thoſe young Students muſt abſolutely acquire the Knowledge of Botany, at leaſt to know the uſual Plants, which will lead them to the *Materia Medica*, without a thorough Knowledge of which they can never ſucceed in their Art. It is a general Complaint here, that Botany is neglected and taught nobody *.

XI.

If theſe young People are not able to purchaſe a great Choice of the beſt practical Books which have been wrote upon the ſeveral Branches of their Art, a Collection of them ſhall be procured at the Hoſpital's Expence, where they may read them when they pleaſe. The Want of Books and the Neglect of Reading, are the too general Cauſes of Ignorance in the Arts and Sciences.

XII.

This Hoſpital muſt be open to every Phyſician or Surgeon, Native or Foreigner,

* They merit no Reproach who at Preſent want this Knowledge, for there have been no Teachers. This is a great Defect in the *Engliſh* medical Education.

who

who may reſort thither to ſee and learn what is performed by the Phyſicians and Surgeons of the ſaid Hoſpital; they muſt never be refuſed Admittance nor to make any Contribution whatſoever.

XIII.

The young Surgeons ſhall open the Corps of thoſe who die in the Hoſpital, and that in the Preſence of their Chiefs, to know the Source of a great many Diſtempers, whoſe Symptoms are equivocal and appear with Irregularity. The Light which the Art receives from thence is of very great Moment, and moſt capable of compleating the thorough able Surgeon.

XIV.

After theſe young Surgeons have compleated the ſixth Year of their Time, they ſhall give a Proof of their Capacity by public Demonſtrations made in the Preſence of their Chiefs and Fellows, and if they chuſe after this to work two Years in the ſaid Hoſpital, they ſhall be received Surgeons of *London* without paying any Thing.

XV.

We may eaſily foreſee, that there will be a great Number of ſuch young Students offer themſelves,

themſelves, as ſoon as the Public know that it coſts nothing to have their Children inſtructed in an Art ſo uſeful as Surgery; many will devote to it ſome of their Family after they come from the *Latin* Schools.

XVI.

Two or three Apothecaries of good Capacity ſhall have the Care of the Pharmacy in the ſaid Hoſpital; they ſhall take upon them to exhibit every Year a Courſe of *Materia Medica* and one of Chemiſtry, for the Uſe of the young Surgeons, without any further Reward than to be themſelves received Apothecaries of *London* and Freemen of the City without Expence, after having been ſix Years in the ſaid Hoſpital, where they ſhall have had their Lodging, Board and one hundred Pounds a Year. They muſt have under their Command ſeveral Mates able to help them and fit to ſerve in their Stead when they leave the Hoſpital.

XVII.

If there was no other Obſtacle than to find in *London* an Hoſpital large enough for the Purpoſe intended here, I imagine that a Monthly Lottery of 100,000 Tickets, at three or four Shillings each, would be ſufficient to raiſe a Sum neceſſary for building

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an immenſe one and eſtabliſhing a large Fund to maintain it for ever without any Subſcription. There is ſuch an Hoſpital in *Europe* that contains four or five thouſand ſick, where are admitted all Sorts of People of any Nation, and that at every Hour of the Day and Night, without Protection or Recommendation; *Jews, Chriſtians, Turks, Arabians. Negroes* are received there. Women come from all Parts of *Europe* to lie-in and leave their Children there. Phyſicians and Surgeons, Foreigners and others, may beget Admittance at any Time. This Hoſpital was firſt eſtabliſhed by a private Man, and by the Munificence of the Great and Rich it is now brought to its preſent Opulency; ſo that it may be truly ſaid to be the firſt and beſt School in the World for Phyſic and Surgery, and a moſt comfortable Aſylum for the People. Such a one is wanted here.

A PLAN

A PLAN to erect a ROYAL ACADEMY of SURGERY in LONDON, and to carry that Art to Perfection in GREAT-BRITAIN.

I.

ALL the Surgeons of *London* ſhall unite in an Academical Society, each of whom ſhall have the Title of Ordinary Fellow.

II.

One of them ſhall be elected Preſident of the Academy to regulate the Meetings and keep the Rules and Orders in Force.

III.

A Secretary being choſen, his Buſineſs ſhall be to keep the Regiſter and maintain a national and foreign Correſpondence, to receive the Memoirs and Obſervations ſent to the Academy and give an Account of them at every general Meeting; he ſhall give Notice to the Public that all Letters be franked to him.

IV.

All the Surgeons and Phyſicians of *Great-Britain*, of the Colonies, and of all *Europe*, ſhall be invited to ſend their Obſervations to the Academy; the Secretary ſhall read them, and thoſe that are approved of by the Members ſhall be put aſide to be printed with the Tranſactions of the Academy.

V.

All Phyſicians and Surgeons, national and foreign, of a public diſtinguiſhed Capacity, ſhall be admitted as Members of the Academy; a Diploma, ſealed by the Academy, ſhall be given them, and they may take the Title of Fellow of the ſaid Academy, at the Front of their Works, as a Mark of Ability, the Academy of *London* being known to receive only ſuch learned Men.

VI.

After any Memoir hath been read in the Aſſembly, every Fellow ſhall be allowed to propoſe his Objections for or againſt the ſaid Memoir, and that one after another, and be checked or deſired to continue according to the Order of the Preſident.

VII. Notice

VII.

Notice ſhall be given to the Public, that any Obſervation made upon an extraordinary Caſe muſt be teſtified under the Hands of two Eye-witneſſes at leaſt.

VIII.

All the Surgeons of Hoſpitals in *Great-Britain* ſhall be deſired to obſerve with Exactneſs all Diſtempers that merit Attention which are committed to their Care, in order to ſend the Academy an exact and well circumſtanced Deſcription of them.

IX.

The Academy ſhall give the Title and Diploma of a Correſpondent to many able, learned Phyſicians and Surgeons, national and foreign, eſpecially to thoſe who reſide in Univerſities and large Towns. This would be a ready Way to be acquainted with new and extraordinary Caſes.

X.

Every Year, at a general Meeting, a Choice ſhall be made of the beſt Memoirs ſent to the Academy, which ſhall be printed, with the Names of the Authors, in the *Academical Tranſactions*.

XI.

The Academy ſhall have a Library of the beſt Books that have been wrote upon practical Phyſic, Surgery, Chymiſtry, Pharmacy, Botany and *Materia Medica*. This Library may be moderate, but choice; it muſt be open twice a Week from Morning to Night, for the Benefit of the young Surgeons and for ſuch as are deſirous to learn.

XII.

The ordinary Fellows of *London* ſhall be charged by Turn, to tranſlate in *Engliſh* what has been publiſhed upon the ſeveral Branches of Surgery, either in *Latin*, *French*, *Italian* or *Spaniſh*, to elucidate the Art.

XIII.

Any *Engliſh* Surgeon who has been ten Years chief Surgeon in an Hoſpital out of *London* ſhall be received Member of this Academy.

XIV.

The Preſident ſhall appoint two or three Meetings in a Month, to which none of the ordinary Fellows of *London* muſt fail of being preſent, Sickneſs only excepted.

XV. The

XV.

The Academy having not yet any Income to give annually a gold Medal of thirty Guineas Value, as a Reward to the Learned, who write beſt upon any Point of Practice propoſed to the World by the ſaid Academy; the Great, the Rich, and the worthy Promoters of Science in this Kingdom, muſt be invited to be Subſcribers to ſuch an honourable Fund. Though ſuch Subſcriptions are too frequently met with abroad, they are rarely to be found in *England*. Doubtleſs an Academy of this kind may one Day or other meet with a Squire *Neadham*, who will do that Buſineſs at once *.

XVI.

The Surgeons of *London* only, as Ordinary Fellows, muſt never be permitted to write for the gold Medal, as they are ſuppoſed to be of a Capacity more than able to obtain it; it muſt therefore be the Reward of any other Phyſician or Surgeon, *Engliſh* or Foreigner.

* *Henry Neadham*, Eſq. hath left 40,000 Pounds to the *Foundling-Hoſpital*, beſides conſiderable Legacies to his Relations and Friends. See *Daily Advertiſer*, *Friday*, *Feb.* 24, 1758.

Having

Having communicated this Plan to ſeveral Gentlemen they highly approved of the ſecond Part, which relates to the Academy of Surgery, but have made ſome Objections to the firſt which I promiſed to anſwer. It has been objected

Firſt,

If Surgery be taught gratis *the loweſt part of the People will diſhonour the Art by their running into it.*

Anſwer.

I know nothing low or baſe in Man but his Vices and Ignorance. Birth depends only upon Chance; Genius and Wit muſt be preferred to any other Qualification in Man; moſt of thoſe who have been eſteemed illuſtrious Men, have ſprung from low Extractions.

Secondly,

This Plan is too generous to be put in execution; generally ſpeaking, Men are led by ſelf-intereſt.

Anſwer.

Becauſe this Plan is generous it may the more eaſily be put in execution, it will be expenſive to no body. I know the covetouſneſs of Man's Heart, but we may perhaps find honeſt People who really feel the true Love of the public Welfare, and believe

lieve they will eſtem it an honour to be the firſt Promoters of this undertaking. Had the World always been permitted to run its common Courſe it would certainly have been very wrong, and we ſhould ſtill have continued in the groſſeſt Ignorance and Stupidity.

Thirdly,

Who can compel the Surgeons of London *to form an Academy of Surgery and fill the Office of Fellows?*

Anſwer.

Compulſion is by no means requiſite for the forming an Academy. Love of true Learning, Honour and Emulation have been hitherto ſufficient to maintain the Royal Academies of *London*, *Paris*, *Bologne*, *Berlin*, and *Petersburgh*. Can the Surgeons of *London* only be void of ſuch a noble Emulation? To ſuſpect it would be an Affront to them, two or three of them are enough to bring all the others to ſuch a Reſolution. We have before our Eyes an inſtance of the moſt complete and moſt generous Academy in the World; near ſeven hundred Gentlemen, equally diſtinguiſhed by their Rank and Qualifications, are the Fellows of this Society, who have voluntarily ſubſcribed a large Sum of Money to promote Arts and Sciences. I could prove that this extraordinary Munificence

cence eclipſes that of all Princes who have erected Academies. But the Academy of Surgery may be erected without Expence; why then ſhould it not be erected?

Fourthly,

It is not an Advantage ſufficient to recompenſe a Surgeon, who hath worked ſix Years in an Hoſpital, to be employed in a Man of War, a Regiment, or in a Colony.

Anſwer.

When they have ſerved ſeven Years to a Surgeon pray what have they learned? or what have they ſeen? Almoſt nothing. Nevertheleſs they are admitted into the Service, after having been two or three Months in an Hoſpital; is there any Compariſon between ſuch a one, and one who has had ſix Years experience in a good Hoſpital? If you would have learned People you muſt pay them according to their Merit, or be ſatisfied with the moſt barbarous Ignorance: This muſt be the caſe where Indifference and Avarice are predominant. If the pay of thoſe who are employed as firſt Surgeons in a Ship of War, or in a Regiment, be not ſufficient, let it be doubled directly, that the Salary may be adequate to the Capacity, then may we be very ſure to recover Health and

preſerve

preſerve Life under their Care, this methinks deſervedly merits our Attention. A good able Surgeon may, in a long Voyage, preſerve the Lives of three hundred Seamen, they muſt be rated very low if they are not eſtimated at a hundred Pounds an Head; it is then as much as if that Surgeon had ſaved his Country 30,000*l.* and multiply that by one hundred for the Navy, as much for the Army, and as much for the Colonies, and then you will find it not a Trifle, being 9000,000*l.* of Money.

Fifthly,

When there is too great a number of People in an Hoſpital the Air grows unwholſom.

Anſwer.

This may be true in regard to the Hoſpitals of *London*, which are all too low and too much confined.

Let there be a large Hoſpital, well expoſed, whoſe Halls ſhould be at leaſt twenty-ſix Feet wide, and eighteen Feet high, let the Windows be very large and opened all at one Time every Day, and if it be always kept clean it will be as wholſom as a good Apartment. There is no great difficulty in this.

Sixthly,

You ſay without Expence to the Public, a Lottery is expenſive to all ſuch as depoſit Money therein.

Anſwer.

I believe no body puts Money into a Lottery when they know the purchaſe of a Ticket exceeds their Ability; it may be called a Game where the Adventurers may draw much more than they venture; beſides we ought to ſcorn a ſmall Loſs, when it is evident that we ourſelves are concerned in the Advantages of it. Moreover a Lottery is not a burdenſome Tax, no body is conſtrained or terrified by it, let who will venture his Money.

Seventhly,

The Surgeons of London will never own themſelves inferior to any others.

Anſwer.

No body in this World will acknowledge his inferiority in any Rank whatſoever; I know that there is in *London* ſome able Surgeons, equal to any others. The deſign here is only to increaſe their Number, ſo that the Army, Navy, the Colonies and Counties may be provided with them. Conſcience cannot

cannot diſſemble with itſelf, it needs only to make a Compariſon with its Neighbour's Works and its own, to know on which ſide the Scale will fall. A Man of Wit and Genius is always true; a Fool ſtubborn and proud: Where is the Man who with a ſmall Doſe of Impartiality, would give up himſelf for ſuch an one.

Eighthly,

Four Surgeons are not ſufficient to inſtruct an hundred young People.

Anſwer.

A ſingle one is more than ſufficient to inſtruct and carry them to Perfection. An able Maſter may form a very celebrated School, and leave after him a great many Pupils equal to himſelf, who may in Time eclipſe his Ability with their own. Phyſic, Surgery, Painting, Architecture and many other Arts afford us ſeveral inſtances. *Boerhaave* hath made a thouſand able Phyſicians, *Morand* as many able Surgeons, *Scamozi* and *Rubens* as many Painters and Architects, the ſingle reading of *Horace*'s Works and Precepts make to this Day celebrated Poets. What may we not expect from four experienced Surgeons who would generouſly communicate their Knowledge.

Ninthly,

Why ſhould the Cure of Venereal Diſorders belong rather to Surgeons than Phyſicians?

Anſwer.

I know that Phyſicians only have wrote perfectly well on theſe Diſorders, and have taught others how they may be cured; but as the Public are not acquainted with this they commonly apply to Surgeons, who muſt then learn how to cure them ſince they expect a Cure and depend on them for it; moreover theſe Diſtempers are ſubject to ſeveral Operations that Phyſicians ſcorn to perform and Surgeons are obliged to learn.

Tenthly,

If Surgeons attempt to cure the Scurvey, Pleuriſies, Looſeneſſes, it is an encroachment upon Phyſic, and that will ſhorten the Phyſician's profit.

Anſwer.

There are a thouſand Occurrences where ſuch ſick People happen to die for want of Phyſicians, eſpecially at Sea, in the Field, in the Colonies, and elſewhere. It matters not to the Public who cures them provided they be cured. A Surgeon who has not ſome knowledge of Phyſic is always a very dangerous

dangerous Man, how can he guard againſt ſuch Accidents as may happen to a Man on whom he has made an Operation, or to thoſe who have been dangerouſly wounded? Beſides Surgeons as well as Apothecaries have ſeldom an Opportunity of practiſing Phyſic on any but the Poor, why ſhould we hinder them? What Encroachment is this on the Phyſician's Profit? when they have not a Capacity required for that. It is loſs of Life only to thoſe who truſt them, will you remedy this? Let them be learned.

Eleventhly.

If your Plan was followed Surgeons would be able to find no Apprentices and that would be to their Loſs.

Anſwer.

The Conſequence is not juſt, but granting this, what ſignifies the Loſs cauſed to a ſmall Number of Surgeons, provided we do not hurt their Fortunes, and that we promote the Welfare of the Public? Who would be ſo bad a Patriot as to complain of it?

Twelfthly,

There is already ſo many Hoſpitals in London, *why ſhould we build another?*

Anſwer.

Anſwer.

All the Hoſpitals of *London*, except *Chelſea College* and *Greenwich*, are rather ſmall Houſes than Hoſpitals; they are ſettled on a footing diametrically oppoſite to that which I propoſe; beſides, they are not ſufficient for the fourth Part of thoſe who want to be admitted into them; the way of Subſcription, which ſupports the moſt Part of them, is indeed very pious, and deſerves to be admired; but it is not univerſally good for the Poor, becauſe unleſs they be known to the Benefactors they never can be admitted into them; and as thoſe charitable Perſons may diſpoſe only of a few Places, many may die in the Streets or in a Garret for want of help when thoſe Places are filled; I have known ſeveral inſtances of this. In ſhort, an Hoſpital with two or three thouſand Beds, where every ſick Perſon could be admitted at any Time, is abſolutely neceſſary in this large Metropolis, as much for the preſervation and help of the People, as for the further Perfection of Phyſic and Surgery in the Kingdom. Such an Hoſpital would be no leſs an Honour to the Nation than the fine Bridge of *Weſtminſter*, it would not coſt half ſo much, and would be infinitely more uſeful and beneficial.

Thirteenthly,

Thirteenthly,

Your Plan cannot ſucceed becauſe it ſuppoſes that one ſhould grant ſeveral Privileges which depend only on the Parliament, and on the City, it will only draw againſt you a great many Enemies.

Anſwer.

The Privileges here in queſtion are but mere Trifles, which coſt only a little piece of Parchment; and if the Parliament find this Plan of uſe to the Nation they doubtleſs will grant thoſe Privileges, becauſe they always have the good of the Public at Heart; as to the Enemies I may draw againſt me thereby I don't regard them: I know no Phyſic that can cure Jealouſy or Envy, thoſe who are troubled with theſe Paſſions are greatly to be lamented, not only becauſe they ſhew the weakneſs of their Wit and baſeneſs of their Heart, but alſo becauſe they are abſolutely incurable.

FINIS.

E.840